



Saturday, September 12 — 10:00 a.m.

Elise Hooper, Author

***Fast Girls:*
A Novel of the 1936 Women's Olympic Team**

Zoom Meeting

Contact RSVP@aauw-seattle.org to register.



Local author Elise Hooper will introduce her latest book, ***Fast Girls: A Novel of the 1936 Women's Olympic Team***. Ms. Hooper enjoys writing about women whom history has overlooked. *Fast Girls*, her third novel, was inspired by the trailblazing members of the first integrated women's Olympic team. Following her presentation, Ms. Hooper will answer questions about writing and the research process.

Ms. Hooper spent several years writing for television and online news outlets before getting an MA and teaching high-school literature and history. A native New Englander, she now lives in West Seattle with her husband and two daughters. Her two other novels are *The Other Alcott* (2017) and *Learning to See* (2019).

Also at the meeting, scholarship recipients Anna Nguyen and Tybrenna Wilkins will speak about their educational and career goals.

Join us!

Register to receive the event log-in by emailing RSVP@aauw-seattle.org.

And Next Month...

Catherine West, Legal Voice Attorney

R-90 and the Campaign for Safe and Healthy Youth

Supporting Senate Bill 5395, the age-appropriate sex-education bill

Saturday, October 10

10:00 a.m.— Zoom Meeting

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Leadership Corner—Lynn Dissinger

No crystal ball could have predicted the year we are all experiencing! As 2020 kicked off, the presidential campaign and election were expected to be the story of the year, no matter the outcome. They are still crucially important, pivotal events, but now the major upheavals of the coronavirus pandemic and the fight against systemic racial inequity take center stage and further illustrate the deep divide in this nation.

On this 100th anniversary of most women winning the right to vote*, AAUW's Every Voice Every Vote reminds us that the right to vote is not guaranteed. People of color continue to face a myriad of targeted voter-suppression efforts, and all voters in November are likely to face fears of COVID exposure at polling sites or obstacles to mail-in balloting. There is much work to be done and we must continue to move forward in the fight for gender and racial equity.



It has been a year of change for our branch as well. Many of us look forward to the monthly meetings where we can gather together for informative and inspirational speakers. We take pride in our involvement in Tech Trek and sending future leaders to NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders). All of this came to a screeching halt in March. It has taken us a bit to reimagine ourselves, but we are back on track for engaging our members. All of our small social groups began meeting via Zoom this summer and continued building social connections. We are also ready to bring you virtual programs to enjoy at home.

We kicked off our first Zoom branch meeting on August 5 with Marilyn Watkins of the Economic Opportunity Institute addressing gender and racial wage disparities. In September we will be hearing from Elise Hooper, originally our May speaker, talking about her newest novel, *Fast Girls* (about the 1936 Women's Olympic Team). In October, Catherine West from Legal Voice will speak on R-90 – the sex-education referendum, while in November we will once again have a speaker from Humanities Washington. Dr. Michelle Liu will present "The Country That Fiction Built", a talk about two books on race that shaped American thinking.

While we won't be gathering at a physical location for the foreseeable future, we are pleased to continue to provide interesting, varied virtual programs to our members. We may be seeing our AAUW friends' smiling faces only on our computer screens for now, but we look forward to the day we can again greet each other face-to-face.

* The citizenship requirements at the time meant the exclusion of certain ethnic groups.

In commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, let's remember the battle for equality is FAR from over—Kim Churches, AAUW CEO

"Even today, barriers persist that keep many Americans from exercising their Constitutional right to vote. Blatant suppression efforts...disproportionately impact women, people of color, voters with disabilities, students and older people...." Read [the full article](#), published in NBC's "Know Your Value".

This newsletter is a publication of the American Association of University Women (AAUW)

Seattle Branch.

Page one [Seattle cityscape](#) by Michael Tompsett

Mission Statement

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision

Equity for all.

Values

Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.



Interesting Links on Our

News Blog – Tonna Kutner

Some of our Seattle Branch leadership had a fascinating [meeting with young people from Citizens' Climate Lobby](#).

Find out more about the [two women who will receive college scholarships](#) from AAUW Seattle this year.

Our News Blog is always available on our web site – www.aauw-seattle.org. Click on the News Blog tab in the upper right on the homepage.

Gender and Racial Equity in the Time of COVID-19 – Marianne North

There is still much to be done to improve the economic conditions of women and people of color in Washington State, according to Marilyn Watkins, Ph.D., Policy Director at the Seattle-based nonprofit Economic Opportunity Institute.



At the AAUW-Seattle virtual branch meeting on August 5, Dr. Watkins presented Washington State data comparing the earnings of men and women in various occupations. She showed that the pathway to higher education is harder for many students of color. Black workers face higher unemployment at every level of education. Black families start with less wealth and accumulate less over their working lives, resulting in the need to borrow more for college costs. Single mothers and their children are at a high risk of poverty. While disparities in maternal mortality between Black and White mothers are less pronounced in Washington State than in the nation, Native American women and Latinas have much higher rates of maternal mortality in this state compared to the nation.

Dr. Watkins discussed recent state legislation that aims to improve economic conditions for working women, including paid family and medical leave. She showed the devastating economic effect the pandemic has had on the Washington State economy and on lower-income workers. The State will be facing a budget shortfall that may require severe cuts both because of the pandemic and because the state system of taxation is inequitable.

Dr. Watkins offered us her presentation slides, now available on the AAUW Seattle website, [here](#).

AAUW-Seattle Collaborates on “Approve 90 WA” (yes on R-90), Supporting Age-Appropriate Sex Education in Washington State - Katherine Cleland

Washington State AAUW supported the passage of Senate Bill 5395, the age-appropriate sex education bill, during the 2020 legislative session. AAUW-WA and AAUW-Seattle are now collaborating with many other organizations in supporting “Approve90WA”. AAUW-WA will urge voters to say YES to [Referendum 90](#) on the November ballot, which will uphold the new Washington State law that requires that all public schools teach age-appropriate, inclusive, comprehensive sexual health education to K-12 students.



Approving R-90 means no young persons in Washington are left in the dark when they need honest and accurate information about their changing bodies, sex, and healthy relationships. Please ‘like’ and follow the campaign on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/approve90WA/> and sign up for the mailing list at www.approve90wa.org.

We encourage you to join in spreading positive messages found in these resources about the impact of appropriate sex education. You’ll find more information on our [Seattle Branch website newsblog](#).

Officer Election Recap – Lynn Dissinger

Due to Stay-At-Home orders associated with the coronavirus pandemic, the Seattle Branch board voted to hold our 2020-2022 officer elections via an email survey. Thirty-five members voted and the officers elected were Robin Hendricks as Membership Vice President and Barbara Sando as Finance Vice President.

Officers continuing for 2020-2021 are Lynn Dissinger and Fiona Goodchild as Co-presidents, Cynthia Sheridan as Program VP and Rachael Foe as Secretary.

Washington State Annual Meeting – Lynn Dissinger and Fiona Goodchild

AAUW-WA held their first-ever virtual meeting on August 8, with almost 90 members participating. The day kicked off with an address from National CEO Kim Churches. She shared that a proposal on removing the educational requirement for membership will again come up for a vote, and explained why it is critical that we make this change. As much as we strive to be inclusive, this requirement instead is viewed as exclusionary and even prevents AAUW from applying for corporate grants that could help further gender equity. While AAUW advocates for equity for all, being an organization for only those with a college education is seen as counter to that message. Times have changed and AAUW needs to change with them.



Another example of essential organizational change is the national AAUW pilot program, Equity Network, which provides a different model for reaching younger generations who are not interested in a membership organization and in-person program meetings. A monthly subscription for an inclusive learning community, this program has a focus on “Equity for All”.



Other topics presented included a recap of the 5-Star Program, a status that both Seattle and Bellingham (now Whatcom) branches achieved. More information about the program is in a separate article in this issue.

Walla Walla Branch shared some of their success stories, from applying for and receiving community grants to Big Idea Talks held at libraries. The lunch break featured Barbara Callander portraying a woman from the anti-suffrage camp, stating her views on the disasters that would befall the country if women became voters. She also shared history about Washington State suffrage, which was won in 1910. *



Sandra Distenhorst from the Edmonds SnoKing Branch reported on the Policy Café that had been held by that branch, a concept AAUW-WA would like to take statewide. Sandra made a convincing case that it is important to start conversations among members in order to hear their opinions and get them involved in public policy issues. She also suggested that such events can be framed to present an issue with a different lens, one that focuses on how a proposed policy would affect a specific group. This can be a powerful way of emphasizing equity and diversity among the participants at a café.

At the small breakout session for Region 4 (North Puget Sound), about 40 branch leaders responded to prepared questions that focused on how to promote more collaboration between local branches. One idea was for members from different branches to prepare their ideas and visit a legislator together. Another member proposed that a compilation of activities at several branches might allow members to choose to attend those held at different locations. Clearly, this is more feasible for virtual events.

Despite an initial concern that a full day on Zoom would be daunting, the meeting flowed well and held the interest of participants. It was a successful way to bring AAUW members from across the state together without the hours spent in the car!

* The 1910 amendment excluded some groups. See the full text of the amendment [here](#).

Branch Board Meeting Summary – Rachael Foe

On August 10, 2020 the board met via Zoom and began with an overview of branch happenings during the summer. Then Cathy Anderson, our new *Catalyst* editor, reviewed her work process, followed by Cynthia Sheridan discussing our upcoming programs. Robin Hendricks followed with a report on membership. There are eighty-six confirmed members and some who still need to renew.

Barbara Sando gave a thorough summary of our budget and the board passed the 2020-2021 budget. Of note in our finances is that our investment firms changed but we maintain the same broker. Finally, Gay Armsden mentioned the welcome packets she created for new members, and how we might attract more scholarship applicants.

THE AAUW PROGRAM

5-Star Status – Lynn Dissinger

Congratulations to our branch for being awarded five-star status! AAUW's Five-Star National Recognition Program rewards affiliates (states, branches and other organizations) for aligning their work with the AAUW strategic plan and other initiatives that foster the organization's mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls.

Seattle Branch received a star in each of the following categories:

Programs

Our branch's regularly occurring meetings often focus on economic and education equity. Our Evolution of Title IX event aligns with the education pillar of AAUW's strategic plan.

Advancement

We achieved 90% member-retention this past year, and made generous contributions to AAUW's Greatest Need Fund, demonstrating our commitment to the future of our branch, which is invaluable to AAUW's strength, relevance, and ability to carry its mission into the future.

Communications and External Relations

Our branch has an engaging website and a strong social media presence on Facebook.

Public Policy and Research

Our branch members engage with our local community in our public-policy advocacy efforts to benefit women and girls, and meet with legislators or their staff to discuss strategic-plan focus areas.

Governance and Sustainability

Our branch's succession planning and alignment with state and national strategic plans are testaments to our commitment to empower women and girls.

Small Social Groups (SSG's) – Gay Armsden

Our five SSG's (created with home addresses) have been Zooming and reports are coming in of good times, some with themes such as book recommendations, favorite objects, and special memories.

- **NE Seattle:** Meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Next Zoom: September 1 at 11:00 a.m. Contact: Ruth McFadden.
- **Northernmost:** Next Zoom: September 6 at 1:00 p.m. Contact: Gay Armsden.
- **NW Seattle:** Meets second Wednesday of the month. Next Zoom: September 9 at 5:30 p.m. Contact: Laurel Erickson.
- **W. Seattle & Points South:** Meets the third Tuesday of the month. Next Zoom: September 15 at 10:00 a.m. Contact: Judy Waring. (Photo of their most recent Zoom meeting, above.)
- **Central Seattle:** Contact Tonna Kutner for the next meeting date.



If you're new and don't know what group you're in, contact Gay Armsden. SSG organizers: Please email photos to Gay.



Interest Group Corner

The Seattle Branch has three very active interest groups and hopes to add new ones in the near future, so stay tuned. Check this space each month to learn what's happening with each interest group and consider joining one or more. The more members who join in, the merrier. A contact person is listed with each group below.

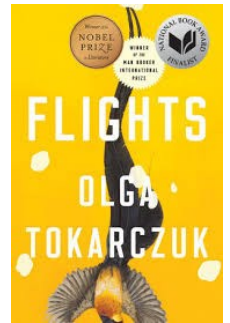
Art Smarts—Ann Dennis—ad@aauw-seattle.org

The Art Smarts interest group is more than ready to pick back up where we left off last February, just as soon as area museums and other arts venues open their doors again. Until then, we will just twiddle our thumbs and bide our time until we can once again visit. If you are interested in being on our mailing list, please send an email to Ann. As soon as the time is right, we will plan another excursion and let everyone know.

Book Group—Fiona Goodchild—books@aauw-seattle.org

We had some great book discussions on Zoom in July and August to make up for our missed books in March and April. Marianne North has done a super job as our Zoom coordinator.

On September 22 at 1:00 p.m., Marianne North will lead our Zoom discussion of *Flights*, by Olga Tokarczuk (fiction). For more information contact Fiona.



Writers' Group—Marianne North—writing@aauw-seattle.org

The writing group is meeting via Zoom on the first Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Members share and critique their writing, which can range from memoirs to fiction to short stories based on writing prompts. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Marianne.

Member News

Welcome Newest Members!

We heartily welcome Anneliese Ellerton, Mary Piette, Kathy Principi and Reitha Weeks, who joined last spring!

Normally we would be having a fun and informative new-member social in September, but we will have to wait until it's safe to congregate.

New branch members have been mailed their welcome packets.



Reitha



Anneliese



Kathy



Mary

2021 Branch Directory Deadline

— Robin Hendricks

July 1 began the new fiscal year and with the new year comes a new Seattle branch directory. The 2021 Directory will be printed in mid-September. If there are changes to last year's information, let Robin Hendricks know at membership@aauw-seattle.org. The directories will be mailed to all members in late September.

Thanks to everyone who has renewed her membership. If you have not renewed, it is not too late. To renew, contact Barbara Sando, finance@aauw-seattle.org, for an invoice via email with instructions on renewing by check or credit card.

All those who renew by September 15 will be included in the 2021 Directory.

Member News—Judy Waring

One Way to Stop Voter Suppression

I have been writing postcards as part of the Reclaim Our Vote project. A fellow church member obtains the names and addresses and prepares packets with 20 cards, instructions, stamps, and the exact wording to write on the cards. I receive a packet every two weeks (reimbursing her for her expenses) and have up to two weeks to write and mail the cards.

The first two sets went to residents of Texas whose names had probably been removed from voter rolls. I placed a sticker on each card with a phone number and web address for the recipient to check their voter registration status. Part of what I was given to write was in Spanish—so it was a challenge. I used blue and black ink and had a white-out pen handy in case I made a mistake. Then I signed my first name in red. The next batch I'm writing goes to voters in early September to ask them to check about their early voting locations. This batch is all to be written in English, so should go faster.

This is a non-partisan effort and I feel like I am doing something to help. I prefer to write cards rather than making phone calls or sending text messages.

AAUW-WA Lobbyist Pam Crone Has Announced Her Retirement

We are sad to report that our AAUW Washington State Public Policy lobbyist Pam Crone has decided to retire, after serving as our lobbyist and consultant for 17 years. We will miss her! Pam kept us informed on issues and bills that fit with our mission, helped arrange speakers for Lobby Day, and advised us on how to lobby. Her weekly reports during the legislative session have been part of her work. Over the years we have enjoyed having Pam be our speaker at Seattle Branch meetings.



Pam has been a lobbyist for other organizations in Olympia for 20 years, covering work on LGBTQ issues, including landmark marriage legislation, gender-based violence, workplace equality and rights, youth and family homelessness, family law, foster care, reproductive rights and health.

We congratulate Pam on the completion of her career as lobbyist. Pam, an attorney, says she looks forward to doing some *pro bono* legal work, and staying attuned and engaged in state policy and politics. We are delighted that Pam is continuing her membership in Seattle Branch and look forward to seeing her at future meetings.

Do you have news to share?

So many of our members are doing volunteer work and other fascinating activities that complement AAUW's mission. Let us share your story in a future issue of *The Catalyst*. Email catalystnews@aauw-seattle.org.

AAUW-Seattle Branch Officers 2020-2021

Elected

Co-presidents:

Lynn Dissinger & Fiona Goodchild -
president@aauw-seattle.org

VP Finance:

Barbara Sando - finance@aauw-seattle.org

VP Programs:

Cynthia Sheridan - programs@aauw-seattle.org

VP Membership:

Robin Hendricks - membership@aauw-seattle.org

Secretary:

Rachael Foe - secretary@aauw-seattle.org

Appointed

Web Site:

Nella Kwan - website@aauw-seattle.org

Catalyst Newsletter Team:

Cathy Anderson - catalyst@aauw-seattle.org

Gay Armsden - scholarships@aauw-seattle.org

Judy Waring - catalystnews@aauw-seattle.org

Public Policy:

Katherine Cleland -
publicpolicy@aauw-seattle.org

College/University Relations:

Robin Hendricks - c-u@aauw-seattle.org

Scholarship Program:

Gay Armsden - scholarships@aauw-seattle.org

Scholar Recognition:

June Arnold - recognition@aauw-seattle.org

Tech Trek:

Tonna Kutner - TechTrek@aauw-seattle.org

Marketing & Communications:

Tonna Kutner - marketing@aauw-seattle.org

Nominating Committee:

nc@aauw-seattle.org

Board Members at Large:

Gay Armsden - scholarships@aauw-seattle.org

June Arnold - recognition@aauw-seattle.org

Judy Waring - catalystnews@aauw-seattle.org

Seattle Branch AAUW
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 Seattle, WA 98136-2332
 Address Service Requested

Upcoming Events...

Date	Day	Time	Location	Program
September 8, 2020	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Zoom meeting. Email secretary@aauw-seattle.org for information.	Branch Board Meeting
September 12, 2020	Saturday	10:00 am	Zoom meeting. Email RSVP@aauw-seattle.org to register.	Elise Hooper, author, <i>Fast Girls: A Novel of the 1936 Women's Olympic Team</i> . Also: Scholarship winners.
October 5, 2020	Monday	7:00 pm	Zoom meeting. Email secretary@aauw-seattle.org for information.	Branch Board Meeting
October 10, 2020	Saturday	9:30 am	Zoom meeting. Email RSVP@aauw-seattle.org to register.	Catherine West, attorney, R-90 and the Campaign for Safe and Healthy Youth
November 16, 2020	Monday	7:00 pm	Zoom meeting. Email RSVP@aauw-seattle.org to register.	Michelle Liu, Humanities Washington, The Country that Fiction Built